

REMARKS

The Office Action dated December 16, 2005 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1-6, 8-11, 13-21, 23-26, 28-36, 38-41 and 47-50 are pending in the application.

On page two of the Office Action, Claims 1-5, 16-20, 31-35 and 46-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yacoub (U.S. 6552813) in view of Suzuki et al. (US 6606163).

On pages 4-5 of the Office Action, Claims 1-5 appear to have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yacoub (U.S. 6552813) in view of Sonderegger. Applicants will consider both Sonderegger and Suzuki et al. because this appears to be a typographical error.

On page 6 of the Office Action, Claims 6, 8-11, 21, 23-26, 36, 38-41, and 50 were rejected under § 103(a) over Yacoub and Suzuki in view of Nagata.

On page 7 of the Office Action, Claims 13-15, 28-30, and 43-45 were rejected under § 103(a) over Yacoub, Suzuki et al. and Nagata in view of Olsen.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Applicants invention, as recited in claim 16, requires at least a multiplexer interface that examines job description attributes of a print job to identify the attribute of the print job and identifies an attribute of a the print channel associated with the incoming print job. A multiplexer processor component then processes the incoming print job based upon the job description attribute of the incoming print job and the identification of the attribute of the print channel receiving the print job. Independent claims 1, 31 and 46 include similar language.

Yacoub does not suggest identifying identifies an attribute of the print channel associated with the incoming print job. Rather, Yacoub merely teaches that a user or client uses a command

menu or graphical user interface (GUI) menu to select parameters for a print job, e.g., such as speed, quality and either color or black and white. The print job is then spooled to a server, wherein the server decides which printer is available to print the job (step 340) “using the user's preferences selected from the GUI or command menu.” The server will have a map of all available printers along with the status of each printer. The server can also take into account the physical location of the user and find the printer nearest to the user, which complies with the print job preferences of the user. Once the appropriate printer is found, the print job is sent and spooled to that printer (step 350).

Thus, Yacoub does not mention examining attributes of a print channel associated with an incoming print job.

Suzuki et al. fail to overcome the deficiencies of Yacoub. Suzuki et al. also do not suggest identifying identifies an attribute of the print channel associated with the incoming print job. According to Suzuki et al., user equipment issues a job and assigns attributes to the job. The printing system effects printing of the plurality of documents corresponding to attributes of the documents under control of a job scheduling device.

More specifically, Suzuki et al. disclose that the job scheduling device 12 is a module that sequentially stores in a queue job requests that are delivered from the terminal 11 prints the job by transferring a job stored in the queue to the job execution section 13. This job scheduling device 12 includes a job scheduling section 15 and a queue management section 17. The job scheduling section 15 transfers a delivered job to the queue management section 17, and queues are managed using the queue management section 17. The queue management section 17 prepares various types of queue in compliance with an instruction from the job scheduling section 15. For example, if a job hold is specified for a job request by the job attributes assigned

by the user terminal, the job request is stored in this hold queue 19. The job scheduling section 15 selects a printer that is suitable for processing in the job execution section 13, and stores the job in a corresponding printer queue 22. Other jobs are processed according to the job attributes assigned by the user terminal.

Accordingly, Suzuki et al. clearly do not disclose, teach or suggest identifying identifies an attribute of the print channel associated with the incoming print job. Rather, Suzuki et al. process print jobs according to job attributes assigned to the jobs by the user terminal.

Sonderegger et al. fail to remedy the deficiencies of Yacoub and Suzuki et al. Sonderegger et al. discloses a method for managing application programs in a computer network using a database of application objects. In particular, Sonderegger et al. disclose a flowchart illustrating an application management routine for modifying a network database schema as shown in Fig. 5. In Fig. 6, Sonderegger et al. disclose a flowchart further illustrating attribute definition and addition steps of the routine shown in FIG. 5. According to Sonderegger et al., the schema modification step 64 includes an attribute definition and addition step 90, which in turn includes separate definition, and addition steps 91 through 120 for new attributes, which are added to the schema 28 according to the present invention. Fig. 6 describes the addition of the new attributes. More specifically, Sonderegger et al. disclose that step 118 defines and adds a "printer ports" attribute having a case ignore string attribute syntax. The printer ports attribute value includes a list of printer ports, which must be captured by the application launcher 50 prior to executing the application 23.

Thus, Sonderegger et al. merely describes capturing printer ports based on a printer ports attribute that is added via an application management routine. The application management routine allows a user to make modifications to the schema 28 that include the addition of at least

one class that defines application objects 49 and the addition of attributes which enhance the visibility and ease of use of those application objects 49. The printer port attribute is merely an attribute that added to the schema 28. The schema 28 is merely a semantic description of the information contained in each instance of an object attribute for the particular application.

Sonderegger et al. therefore fails to suggest identifies an attribute of the print channel associated with the incoming print job. Sonderegger et al. is not even involved with processing on the printer side. Rather, Sonderegger et al. is merely describing adding printer port attributes that provide a list of printer ports that must be captured by the application. The printer port in question is the port at a computer running an application and is not a port at a printer or print server. Moreover, capturing a printer port, as mentioned by Sonderegger et al., merely refers to associating a local printer port with a remote network printer or otherwise configuring a printer port for printing using a particular printer by configuring a printer device driver for that particular printer.

Sonderegger et al. is in no way related to a multiplexor interface that identifies an attribute of a print channel associated with the incoming print job. Moreover, Sonderegger et al. does not even mention print channel attributes, but rather focuses on attributes of a printer port. A print channel is used to print pages of a document and defines the scope of a print job, the job's beginning and end, and how a print job gets organized for use by a printer. In contrast, a printer port is an access point for data entry or exit.

Accordingly, Yacoub, Suzuki et al. and Sonderegger et al., alone or in combination, fail to suggest a multiplexer interface that identifies an attribute of a the print channel associated with the incoming print job and then processes the incoming print job based upon a job description attribute of the incoming print job and the identification of the attribute of the print channel

receiving the print job.

Nagata fails to remedy the deficiencies of Yacoub, Suzuki et al. and Sonderegger et al. Nagata is cited merely for the purpose of teaching a print processor having “a spool-processing means to hold the printed output data sent through a network from the host terminal.” Nagata emphasizes aspects of output data and discusses data sent through a network only to the extent that data must be sent through a path to spool processing means.

Nagata does not suggest identifying the attribute of the print job, identifying an attribute of a the print channel associated with the incoming print job and processing the incoming print job based upon a job description attribute of the incoming print job and the identification of the attribute of the print channel receiving the print job.

Therefore, Yacoub, Suzuki et al., Sonderegger et al. and Nagata, alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest Applicants’ invention as recited in the independent claims.

Olsen too fails to remedy the deficiencies of Yacoub, Suzuki et al., Sonderegger et al. and Nagata. Olsen is merely cited for the purpose of teaching a “system and method for ensuring secure transfer of a document from a client of a network to a printer.” Olson, like Nagata, Sonderegger et al. and Yacoub, fails to suggest identifying the attribute of the print job, identifying an attribute of a the print channel associated with the incoming print job and processing the incoming print job based upon a job description attribute of the incoming print job and the identification of the attribute of the print channel receiving the print job.

Therefore, Yacoub, Suzuki et al., Sonderegger et al., Nagata and Olsen, alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest Applicants’ invention as recited in the independent claims.

Dependent claims 2-6, 8-11, 13-15, 17-21, 23-26, 28-30, 32-36 38-41, 43-45 and 47-50 are also patentable over the references, because they incorporate all of the limitations of the

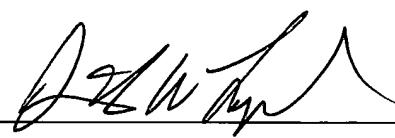
corresponding independent claims 1, 16, 31 and 46. Further dependent claims 2-6, 8-11, 13-15, 17-21, 23-26, 28-30, 32-36 38-41, 43-45 and 47-50 recite additional novel elements and limitations. Applicants reserve the right to argue independently the patentability of these additional novel aspects. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-6, 8-11, 13-15, 17-21, 23-26, 28-30, 32-36 38-41, 43-45 and 47-50 are patentable over the cited references.

On the basis of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of this application and its allowance are requested.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Attorney for Applicant, David W. Lynch, at 423-757-0264.

Respectfully submitted,

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